



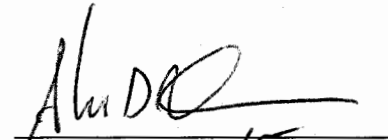
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS ANNOUNCES FINAL SEASON LENGTHS AND QUOTAS FOR THE 2006 FIRST TRIMESTER COMMERCIAL SHARK FISHERY

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the 2006 first trimester season quotas for large coastal sharks (LCS) and small coastal sharks (SCS) based on over- or underharvests from the 2005 first trimester fishing season, and announces final season opening and closing dates for the first trimester season of 2006.

Final First Trimester Season				
Species Group	Region	Final Opening Date	Final Closing date	Final Quota
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads (annual quota 1,017 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	January 1, 2006	April 15, 2006 11:30 p.m. local time	222.8 mt dw (491,185 lb dw)
	South Atlantic		March 15, 2006 11:30 p.m. local time	141.3 mt dw (311,510 lb dw)
	North Atlantic		April 30, 2006 11:30 p.m. local time	5.3 mt dw (11,684 lb dw)
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead (annual quota 454 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	January 1, 2006	To be determined, as necessary	14.8 mt dw (32,628 lb dw)
	South Atlantic			284.6 mt dw (627,429 lb dw)
	North Atlantic			18.7 mt dw (41,226 dw)
Blue sharks (annual quota 273 mt dw)	No regional quotas	January 1, 2006	To be determined, as necessary	91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)
Porbeagle sharks (annual quota 92 mt dw)				30.7 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle (annual quota 488 mt dw)				162.7 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)

This FAX notice is a courtesy to highly migratory species (HMS) fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishing actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register. For further information on this final rule, contact Chris Rilling or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347. Copies of the final rule are available upon request from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-2347, fax: 301-713-1917). The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.


John H. Dunnigan

Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

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Date



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